

# **2027 North Wall ArtsLab Student Programme: Application and Info**

## **Introduction**

We are excited to announce the return of our **ArtsLab Student Programme**, which will see a student company come together as early-career theatre-makers, to produce a show at The North Wall Arts Centre in Winter 2027.

Open exclusively to performances of newly created student work, alongside mentoring and support from The North Wall team - this is a unique opportunity and a jewel in the crown of the Oxford student drama calendar!

## **The Opportunity**

The selected student company will be given access to the theatre for performances and technical rehearsal in Trinity Term 2026. From January, The North Wall team are also on hand to offer mentorship and advice surrounding direction, rehearsals, marketing, producing, technical design and management of the production.

This performance slot is particularly suited to productions looking to transfer their work onto Fringe festivals and runs elsewhere or keen to access opportunities for professional development.

## **Past Productions and Participants**

**Since starting in 2015, the ArtsLab Student Programme has boosted the early theatrical careers of numerous graduates. Past student companies and productions to be part of this scheme include:**

- **Buzzcut Productions' *Bark Bark* (2023)**. Nominated for New Diorama's Untapped Award. The production followed its North Wall run with a month of sold-out performances with Summerhall at the Edinburgh Fringe and recently completed a UK tour. In August 2026, Buzzcut will perform their second production at The Edinburgh Fringe.
- **Goya Theatre's *Smart Casual* (2021)**. In the years since their North Wall production, Goya have become an award winning theatre company and have returned to the venue with work as professional artists. As individuals they have been employed by The Orange Tree Theatre, Punchdrunk and Plaines Plough.
- **Poltergeist Theatre's *Lights Over Tesco Car Park* (2017)**. Described as 'one of the UK's best young theatre companies' (The Guardian), Poltergeist's student production with The North Wall turned professional and won The Samuel French New Play award 2018 - the script was even published!

You can find a look back at past productions [here](#).

## We are looking for:

A student company of theatre-makers to devise / write / adapt a piece of theatre, with support and mentorship from the team at The North Wall.

The panelists are keen to meet teams consisting of Writer, Director, Designer and Producer (or the core company members if the work is not script-led.) Advice on what to include in a bid can be found at

[www.oxforduniversitydramaticsociety.com/bidding-for-a-venue](http://www.oxforduniversitydramaticsociety.com/bidding-for-a-venue)

Noah Wild, the Oxford University Drama Officer, is on hand to offer guidance and support you through the application process. Contact them at

[drama.officer@admin.ox.ac.uk](mailto:drama.officer@admin.ox.ac.uk) with any questions - we recommend having a conversation with them about your project **before** writing your bid.

Please see the Application section of this guide below for what we're looking for and the format.

## Timeline:

Bids open: w/c 23rd April

Bids close: Monday 1st June 9am

Interviews: w/c 15th June

Outcome: w/c 22nd June

TBC August - Initial meeting

TBC October - Production Meeting with North Wall and UDO

TBC November - Production Meeting with North Wall and UDO

TBC December - Production Meeting with North Wall and UDO

**Suggested show week timeline below: (you will have access to the space for the whole week and able to choose the number of performances you deliver within that week)**

*Tuesday 19th January 2027 - Get in/fit-up*

*Weds 20th - 21st January - Tech/dress runs*

*Thurs 21st to Sat 23rd January - Performances*

*Sat 23rd January 2027 - Get-out after the last showing*

*(NB, we assume the company will arrange significant additional time outside of these hours for writing/devising, rehearsals, production preparation and mentorship meetings. A schedule will be agreed with the company detailing script draft delivery dates and/or work-in-progress sharings so that The North Wall and University Drama Officer can feedback and support the process)*

## **Venue Information**

### **Technical Specification:**

A guide to the space for visiting companies including dimensions and seating arrangements can be found here:

<https://www.thenorthwall.com/your-visit/visiting-companies/>

### **Costs for your budget:**

Here's some venue and staffing costs to keep in mind for creating your budget:

**Ticket pricing:** The North Wall work with the company to work out a ticket price that works for you in accordance with the project budget and makes sure it's comparable to other student shows in Oxford. Use previous examples of student bids and budgets to get a feel for prices.

**Venue hire fee:** Subsidised hire fee for £1500 to hire the theatre for the 5 days, Tuesday till Saturday. This includes one duty technician and one duty FOH Manager to support your show during the run.

*Please note that this is for one technician to support the production up to a 40-hour working week. Equipment cannot be used without the presence of a Duty Technician in the building.*

**Box Office fee:** 8% commission on tickets sold

## **How to apply:**

### **Eligibility**

- Student company - this means that your Director and Producer must be current students at the University of Oxford.

- Oxford-based and able to make in-person meetings/rehearsals
- Able to commit to the full project, including the week of **18th January 2027**.

## Application process

Please send either a 1 page document, or an audio / video file up to 3 minutes maximum to Ria Parry, Director of The North Wall ([parryr@thenorthwall.com](mailto:parryr@thenorthwall.com)) and UDO ([drama.officer@admin.ox.ac.uk](mailto:drama.officer@admin.ox.ac.uk)) including the following:

- Who's in your company
- Summary of the project
- Where the project is at currently
- Project timeline
- Budget, including projected production costs like set, equipment hire, costumes etc, marketing, venue hire and projected income
- If there is no script/writer attached, please submit a synopsis of the idea with clear supporting information to give a strong indication of company style. Scripts can be of any length, style and number of characters
- If your production has a particular focus such as music or a particular set, we'd like to see some samples of the material you are working on

The deadline is **9am, 1st June 2027**

**Note:** We recommend contacting the University Drama Officer ([drama.officer@admin.ox.ac.uk](mailto:drama.officer@admin.ox.ac.uk)) in advance of submitting your application - this is so we can make your application as strong as it can be.

If you have any questions about the venue, production timelines or other parts of the application, please contact Ria for an informal chat on [parryr@thenorthwall.com](mailto:parryr@thenorthwall.com).

For questions about your budget and other matters relating to student theatre, please contact Noah Wild, University Drama Officer on [drama.officer@admin.ox.ac.uk](mailto:drama.officer@admin.ox.ac.uk)

Happy bidding!